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Germany

Oilseeds and Products

Winter Rapeseed Area Projected to Increase Again 2006

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Report Highlights:

German winter rapeseed area for harvest 2006 is projected at 1.4 million hectares (ha) compared to 1.32 million ha in 2005. Despite this increase in area of 5.8 percent compared to 2005, the 2006 production of rapeseed will likely be lower than in the previous year, because farmers realized above average yields in 2005. The German Federal Office of Statistics reports the final 2005 rapeseed production at 5.05 million MT.

Includes PSD Changes: No
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Unscheduled Report
Berlin [GM1]
[GM]

Projected winter rapeseed area

The German Federal Office of Statistics projects the area planted with winter rapeseed for harvest 2006 to have increased by 5.8 percent to 1.4 million hectares (ha¹). The geographical distribution of winter rapeseed area is shown in table 1. Summer rapeseed only plays a minor role in Germany, with an area between 16,000 and 49,000 ha in recent years.

The increase in area is a reflection of the high demand for rapeseed oil from the food industry as well as the production of biodiesel. In calendar year 2004, about 980,000 MT of rapeseed oil or 48 percent of total rapeseed oil production in Germany were used for biodiesel production². High oil prices have fueled consumer demand for biodiesel as it is cheaper than mineral diesel because of generous tax breaks on biodiesel. All of these developments lead to higher demand for rapeseed oil and encourages farmers to increase their rapeseed area.

Table 1: Projected German Winter Rapeseed Area by State

	2005	2006	
	final	projection	Change
State	(1000 ha)	(1000 ha)	(in %)
Mecklenburg-West Pomerania	230.2	235.0	2.1
Bavaria	161.4	172.2	6.7
Saxony-Anhalt	145.5	158.4	8.9
Saxony	120.7	128.6	6.5
Lower Saxony	115.3	127.3	10.4
Brandenburg	114.1	121.3	6.3
Thuringia	109.0	114.0	4.6
Schleswig-Holstein	104.9	111.1	5.9
Baden-Wuerttemberg	67.5	72.9	8.0
North Rhine-Westfalia	60.7	63.4	4.4
Hesse	58.0	61.8	6.6
Rhineland-Palatinate	32.3	31.0	-4.0
Saarland	2.8	2.9	3.6
Total	1,322.9	1,399.9	5.8

Crop forecast

Attempting a crop forecast at this point in time is still somewhat pre-mature because the amount of winter-kill and the weather during the flowering period have a large impact on yields. However, assuming an average yields, of 3.5 metric tons (MT) per ha³, a total of 4.9 million MT could be harvested.

Winter rapeseed is sown in the second half of August. The young plants develop a six to twelve leaf rosette before they go into dormancy over the winter. Winter rapeseed flowers in May and is harvested between the middle of July and the first week of August, depending on the region.

¹ 1 hectare = 2.471 acres

² Data for 2005 not available yet

³ Average yield of the past five years. Yields in MT/ha were: 3.78 (2005), 4.13 (2004), 2.92 (2003), 2.99 (2002), 3.69 (2001).

Final crop estimate for 2005

The German Federal Office for Statistics report the final rapeseed production for the 2005 harvest at 5.05 million MT (5.001 million MT winter rapeseed and 48,700 MT summer rapeseed). This is a decrease of 4.3 percent compared to the record harvest of 2004, when 5.28 million MT rapeseed were harvested. This still represents a 22 percent increase above the 1999 through 2004 average. Details about the geographical distribution of rapeseed area, production, and yields are shown in tables 2 and 3.

Table 2: German Area and Production of Rapeseed by State*

	Area			Production		
	2004 final	2005 final	Change (in %)	2004 final	2005 final	Change (in %)
State	(1000 ha)	(1000 ha)	(in %)	(million MT)	(million MT)	(in %)
Mecklenburg-West Pomerania	234.2	232.4	-0.8	1055.1	891.7	-15.5
Bavaria	139.2	162.1	16.5	536.6	591.2	10.2
Saxony-Anhalt	139.3	147.8	6.1	579.0	558.3	-3.6
Saxony	118.2	121.3	2.6	493.4	456.0	-7.6
Lower Saxony	103.4	119.9	16.0	416.4	446.6	7.3
Schleswig-Holstein	114.4	105.8	-7.5	503.2	439.1	-12.7
Brandenburg	110.3	117.0	6.1	451.2	417.7	-7.4
Thuringia	109.9	110.3	0.4	433.5	403.6	-6.9
Baden-Wuerttemberg	64.7	69.7	7.7	244.9	259.0	5.8
North Rhine-Westfalia	57.0	63.5	11.4	221.3	241.1	8.9
Hessia	55.7	58.4	4.8	195.4	206.2	5.5
Rhineland-Palatinate	33.5	33.4	-0.3	133.5	125.2	-6.2
Saarland	3.1	3.4	9.7	10.7	12.2	14.0
Total	1283.4	1345.3	4.8	5276.6	5049.9	-4.3

* ranked by production in 2005

Table 3: Rapeseed Yields per Hectare by State

State	2004 (MT/ha)	2005 (MT/ha)	change (in %)
Schleswig-Holstein	4.40	4.15	-5.68
Mecklenburg-West Pomerania	4.51	3.84	-14.86
North Rhine-Westfalia	3.89	3.80	-2.31
Saxony-Anhalt	4.16	3.78	-9.13
Saxony	4.17	3.76	-9.83
Rhineland-Palatinate	3.99	3.75	-6.02
Lower Saxony	4.03	3.73	-7.44
Baden-Wuerttemberg	3.79	3.72	-1.85
Thuringia	3.94	3.66	-7.11
Bavaria	3.85	3.65	-5.19
Saarland	3.49	3.60	3.15
Brandenburg	4.09	3.57	-12.71
Hessia	3.51	3.53	0.57
Total	4.11	3.75	-8.76

* ranked by yield in 2005